

Amendments to the Claims:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Canceled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (canceled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Applicants reserve the right to pursue any canceled claims at a later date.

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method for monitoring ~~an~~a software application in a packet-switching network comprising:

recording a state of the software application by a monitoring ~~application~~instant;

transmitting the state to a Presence Application which indicates and/or further processes the state;

registering the software application by the monitoring ~~instant~~application as a first communication partner in a list of communication partners ~~can be accessed~~accessible in the network;

registering the Presence Application in the list as a second communication partner which monitors the first communication partner; and

transmitting the state and/or state changes of the software application to the Presence Application as a characteristic which is associated with the first communication partner, or as a message which is transmitted from the first communication partner, wherein the monitoring ~~being~~is carried out on the basis of the characteristic or of the message.

2. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a control instructions instruction for controlling the software application ~~are~~is transmitted from the Presence Application to the monitoring ~~instant~~application.

3. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a presence/instant messaging system is used for registration and for finding software applications and/or monitoring instant application.

4. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the transmission of the state is secured by a handshake process.

5. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the registration of the software application and the transmission of the state are carried out using an SIP infrastructure and the SIMPLE extension to the SIP protocol.

6. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~an~~ a software application can be monitored by any desired number of Presence Applications, and Presence Applications monitor any desired number of software applications[[]].

7. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the monitoring instant application which is associated with ~~an~~ a software application to be monitored is automatically registered in the list, or is found and registered on the basis of the request by the Presence Application.

8. – 20. (canceled).

21. (new) The method as claimed in claim 2,
wherein the Presence Application includes a text editor, and
wherein the control instructions are entered into the text editor and transmitted to the monitoring application as an instant message.

22. (new) The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein monitoring application receives the instant message and converts the instant message to a control command for the software application.

23. (new) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the registering the software application comprises:

entering, by a user of the second communication partner, information identifying the software application including a name of the software application, and
transmitting the information to the monitoring software.

24. (new) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information entered is via a text editor of the Presence Application.

25. (new) A system for monitoring a software application in a packet-switching network comprising

a first computer comprising an instant messenger having a buddy list;
a second computer coupled to the first computer via the packet-switching network, the second comprising the software application,
wherein the software application is included as a buddy in the software application and the state of the software application is displayed in the buddy list, and
wherein a state of the software application is monitorable by a user of the first computer.

26. (new) The system as claimed in claim 25, wherein the instant messenger includes a text editor for receiving instant messages pertaining to the software application and for sending instant messages to control the software application.

27. (new) The system as claimed in claim 26, further comprising a monitoring application,
wherein the user enters in text which is sent as an instant messenger to the monitoring system. includes a text editor for an receiving instant message pertaining to the software application and for an sending instant message to control the software application.

28. (new) The system as claimed in claim 27, wherein the monitoring application converts the text in the instant message to a command form which is sent to the software application.

29. (new) The system as claimed in claim 27, wherein the second computer comprises the monitoring application.

30. (new) The system as claimed in claim 25, wherein in order to monitor the software application a name of the software application and a host name of the second computer is entered by a user of the first computer via the instant messenger.

31. (new) The system as claimed in claim 30, wherein the host name is an IP address.